

Our Beliefs and Articles of Faith

A) **The Bible:** The Bible, made up of both the Old and New Testaments, is God's holy word. Written by holy men of old, it is completely inspired by God's Holy Spirit. It is inerrant, infallible, inexhaustive, and the only standard of truth in all matters.

(2 Peter 1:18-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 10:35;
Hebrews 1:1-2; Exodus 4:15)

B) **God:** There is only one true and living God, the 1st person of the Holy Trinity, who is spirit, self-existent, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, independent, good, perfect, wise, holy, just, compassionate, and merciful; He is revealed by nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; the Redeemer, Savior, Sanctifier, and Judge of all mankind; and the only proper and worthy object of worship; He is revealed in the Bible as a triune Being, consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet as one (1) God; He exercises a sovereign and wise providence over all things created by maintaining the laws of nature and through special, divine acts as His perfect will sees fit.

(Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Cor. 8:4; John 4:24; Exodus 3:14; Psalm 90:2; Malachi 3:6; 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 15:18; Rev. 19:6; Eph. 4-6; Psalm 119:68; Rom. 16:27; Lev. 19:2; Deut. 32:4; Eph. 2:4; Gen. 1:1; Neh. 9:6; Psalm 47:7; Isaiah 45:21; Exod. 31:13; Heb 12:23; Exod. 34:14; Psalm 19:1-2; Acts 17:28; Rom. 1:33; Rev. 22:13)

C) **Jesus Christ:** Jesus Christ, the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity, is God manifest in the flesh and possesses all attributes and perfections of God; in His divine nature, He is truly God, and in His human nature, He is truly man, being born of the virgin Mary; all things were created for Him and by Him; He is the Savior of the world, and no one can come unto the Father, but by Him, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved; He is the only mediator between God and mankind.

(Deut. 30:19; Ezek. 33:11; Col. 1:16; John 6:44; John 3:3; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 John 5:10; Titus 2:13; Rom. 9:5; Is. 9:6; Col. 1:17; John 3:13; Heb. 1:3-10; Eph. 1:7; 2 Tim. 4:1; John 1:14; Phil. 2:6-7; Luke 19:10; John 3:16; 1 John

2:2; Heb. 2:9; Rom. 3:25-26; Rom 5:18; Rom. 8:1; Rom 9:22; Rom. 4:25; Acts 16:31)

D) **The Holy Spirit**: The Holy Spirit, the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity, is God and possesses all attributes and perfections of God; He indwells every believer at the very moment of salvation; He is the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, and guide of every born-again believer; His purpose is to glorify Christ, reprove the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

(John 16:7-13; 1 Cor. 2:11; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Cor. 6:11; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Joel 2:28; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 1:18-21)

E) **Sinfulness of Mankind**: Man was created upright, in the image of God, and innocent, with a natural desire to obey their Creator, God; however, by disobedience, man fell into a state of sin and condemnation; mankind's posterity, therefore, inherits a fallen nature with tendencies to wander away from a Holy and Righteous God, and willfully sin and transgress; therefore, all stand guilty before God; as a result, all mankind is completely dependent upon the redemption effected through the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the salvation of their soul, and the newness of spirit operated through the work of the Holy Spirit; both of which are freely given and provided to all mankind through the grace of God; children, dying in infancy, not being of the age of accountability, have not transgressed against the law of God by not having the ability to rightly divide the word of truth and comprehend sin and its consequences, are only subject to the first death, physical death, brought on by the fall of man (Adam); they are covered by the grace of God, as Jesus, himself, made the declaration of a child's faith, "...for of such is the Kingdom of God".

(Matt. 18:2-5, 19:14; Mark 9:36-37; 1 Cor. 15:22; Ecc. 7:29; Psalm 51:5; John 6:44; 1 Cor. 2:14; Ezek. 11:19-20; John 3:3-5, 16-17, 36; John 5:24; Rom. 3:10,21,25-26; Rom 4:25; Rom 5:8,18; Rom 6:23; Rom 8:1; Rom 10:9-13; Eph 2:1; 1 John 2:2; Heb 9:22; Luke 15)

F) **Death** : As a result of sin, all mankind is subject to the death of the body; death is never extinction, but separation; the soul is separated

from the body immediately after death, and enters into a conscience existence, either in the torments of hell for the unsaved (unredeemed), or the joys of heaven, for the saved (redeemed)

(Rom 5:12; Heb 9:27; 1 Cor 15:22; Ecc 8:8, 12:7; Phil 1:23; 2 Cor 5:8; Rev 6:9; Luke 16:22-26, 23:43; Acts 7:59; Matt 10:28; Rev 20:11-15)

G) **Salvation**: Salvation comes only by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ (who is both willing and able to save) and the blood He shed on Calvary's cross for the remission of our sin; no one can come unto Jesus, except the Holy Spirit draw him through the conviction of sin; Salvation involves both, repentance (a turning from) of sin (namely the rejection of Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior), and faith (a turning to) in Jesus Christ; God desires that all mankind be saved and that none should perish in the 2nd death, eternal damnation in the lake of fire; Salvation is a free gift of God to all, the Holy Spirit invites and strives with all, and whosoever will come, may take of the water of life freely

(Eph 2:8-9, 3:20; 2 Tim 1:12; Heb 7:25; Jude 24; Matt 8:2-3; 1 Tim 2:3-4; 2 Pet 3:9; Zech 9:9; Acts 4:12; Rom 1:16; Titus 2:11; Matt 26:28; Rev 1:5; 1 Thes 5:9; Rom 5:1; Eph 1:4; Rom 8:28-10; 2 Cor 5:19, 9:15; Luke 19:10; John 10:11; Rom 3:25-26; John 16:7-11; Acts 20:21; Matt 3:2; Luke 15:7; Rom 10:17; Heb 11:6; Rev 22:17)

H) **Gospel Ordinances**: The Bible ordains all believers to observe:

1) *Water Baptism* – the complete immersion of the believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit; water baptism represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and relates it to the believer's death, burial, and washing away of his old, sinful nature as he is raised into the newness and resurrection of life in Christ Jesus

2) *The Lord's Supper*: The commemoration of the death of Christ for our sins, by the use of bread, which He made the emblem of His broken body, and the cup, the emblem of His shed blood; by it, the believer expresses his love, thankfulness, and hope in his Savior, Jesus Christ

(Matt 28:19; Col 2:12, 3:3; Rom 6:4, 14:1; 1 Cor 11:23-26, 10:16-17, 21; Matt 26:26-28)

I) **Tithing:** God's financial plan for the support of His work, is taught in both the Old and New Testaments, and is endorsed by both the Apostle Paul and Jesus, Himself

(Gen 14:20, 28:22; Deut 14:22; Mal 3:8-10; Matt 23:23; 1 Cor 9:9-14, 16:2; Heb 7:9-17; 2 Cor 9:6-8)

J) **The Lord's Day:** This is one day in seven, which from the creation of the World, God has set apart for sacred rest, worship, holy service, and personal communion with God; under the former dispensation, the seventh day of the week was set apart for the Lord's Day or Sabbath, commemorating God's work in the creation; under the Gospel, the first day of the week has been set apart as the Christian Sabbath by the authority of Jesus Christ and the apostles, to commemorate the resurrection of Christ

(Gen 2:3; Mark 2:27; Heb 9:14; Ex 20:8-11; Luke 24:1-6, 33-36; 1 Cor 16:2; Acts 20:7, Rev 1:10; Psalm 118:22-24; Is 58:13-14; Is. 56:2)

K) **Resurrection, Judgment, and Final Retribution:** The scriptures teach the resurrection of all mankind; believers will come forth to the resurrection of life, and all unbelievers to the resurrection of damnation; at the end of time, all mankind will be judged according to their works: believers, at the Bema Judgment of Christ, and the unbelievers, at the Great White Throne Judgment; the unsaved/unbelievers (wicked) will go away unto eternal punishment, but the saved/believers (righteous) unto eternal life

(John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor 15:22-24, 35-44; 2 Tim 2:18; Phil 3:21; Acts 17:31; Rev 10:6, 14:11, 20:12, 22:11-15; 2 Pet 1:11, 3:11-12; 2 Cor 5:10; Ecc 12:14; Matt 12:36, 25:46; Rom 2:6-16, 6:23; Mark 3:29, 9:44; Jude 7)

L) **Sanctity of Human Life**: The Bible teaches and we believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image; human life's value and worth is immeasurable, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically and mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death; we are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life
(Prov 139)

M) **Marriage**: The Bible teaches and we believe that God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself; as such, Silver Lake Community Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman and the Pastor(s) and Officers of Silver Lake Community Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman; the facilities and property of Silver Lake Community Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman

N) **Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**: The Bible states and we believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female; these two distinct, yet complementary genders, are a reflection of the image and nature of God; rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image and will of God, their creator, within that person; we believe, according to the Bible, that the term "marriage" has only one meaning, which is the uniting of one man and one woman, in a single, exclusive union; we believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other; we believe that God commands that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in, outside of a marriage between a man and a woman; we believe, according to the Bible that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God; we believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Silver Lake Community Church and to provide a biblical role model to the members of Silver Lake Community Church and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Silver Lake Community Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree

to and abide by this statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality; we believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity; hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the Bible, nor the doctrines or beliefs of Silver Lake Community Church

(Gen 1:26-27; Gen 2:18-25; 1 Cor 6:18, 7:2-5; Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Matt 15:18-20; Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thes 5:22; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31)

O) **Final Authority For Matters of Belief and Conduct**: Our Beliefs and Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs; the Bible itself, as the inspired Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe; for purposes of Silver Lake Community Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastor is Silver Lake Community Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.